

from Virginia, with a vote that could break the tie.

Nobody ever claims to know which of the two candidates Mr. Glass will favor, but it is suspected that he might lean toward Hittcock, who has the support of his Virginia colleagues, Senator Swann and the House majority.

The inside claim by the Hittcock people is that they are certain of twenty-three votes and that there is a group of undecided Senators from whom a gain of one for Hittcock would make him winner. This gain they are confident of realizing.

**Hittcock Is Confident.**

The fact that the caucus call was sent out today by Senator Hittcock in his capacity as acting leader gave color to the claim that he was pretty sure to win. The Underwood leaders—Senators Harrison (Miss.), Bankhead (Ala.) and Gurney (R. I.)—were angered, claiming that unfair advantage had been taken, because so many of their supporters were absent. On the other hand the Hittcock plan was to permit absentees to make pairs or to vote by proxy so that all would have an even chance. This explanation did not at all mollify the Underwood managers, who promised a lively time in the caucus and some surprises in the outcome.

Along with all the other uncertainties the treaty came forward today when Senator Lodge called a meeting of the Foreign Relations Committee for Saturday at noon. It is expected to take up the Knox resolutions—one to make immediate peace by legislation, the other to ratify the treaty in no form necessary to restore peace, leaving out league, labor articles and the like.

The expectation is that the resolution to declare a state of peace without reference to the treaty will be the one considered first. Whether it will be reported is uncertain, but Senator Hittcock expressed the opinion that it might be, inasmuch as so many Democratic members are absent. He will himself oppose it and likewise will continue his opposition to the Lodge resolutions. He continues to insist that there must be conferences and a final compromise on reservations.

It was in this connection that Senator Hittcock observed that the attitude of the President was a mystery. He added, however, that he still believed the President would accept any real compromise that the Senate might reach.

If there is a filibuster led by Senators La Follette and Norris against the railroad bill the outcome will be merely a matter of time. The bill will pass the Senate. On the all the points, Senator Cummins said there would be fifty-eight or fifty-nine votes at least for it; Senator Underwood, on behalf of the Democrats, and Curtis (Kan.), a Republican, were just as positive that it would command a comfortable majority. But on the other hand there is not a two-thirds majority for it, Senator Cummins states, and therefore closure cannot be applied. It requires a two-thirds vote to invoke the closure.

Republican Leader Mondell today sought permission of the Senate leaders for a Christmas recess beginning Saturday and continuing until the 26th, but this was refused because of the legislative situation in the upper house.

Announcement was made to the House late today by Mr. Mondell that for this reason the Christmas adjournment was uncertain. He indicated, however, that the House would take its holidays anyway by three day recesses without quorum.

## PAISH LOOKS TO U. S. AS EUROPE'S SAVIOR

**Says Clemenceau and Lloyd George Will Visit Wilson.**

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Sir George Paish, the financial authority, written in the *Globe*, says Great Britain's exports to the countries from which both France and Great Britain must buy are entirely inadequate to the needs of the British and French people. "Consequently," he writes, "the corollary to the London conference between Premiers Clemenceau and Lloyd George is a further conference in America between these two statesmen and President Wilson."

Sir George points out that Great Britain has no surplus to lend, but says the United States has a surplus of from \$50,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000 a year. "Until this surplus is placed at Europe's disposal on conditions that will enable Europe to obtain it," he adds, "European exchange must continue to fall."

"After a further conference at Washington," the writer continues, "another world conference will be needed in order that Europe may obtain credit with which to buy the surplus products not only of the United States but of all the other countries. At that conference arrangements will have to be made not merely for raising this credit but for its redemption."

## BELGIUM REFUSES OFFER OF ENTENTE

**Rejects Proposal Based on Guarantee of Neutrality.**

BRUSSELS, Dec. 18.—The Belgian Government has refused categorically a proposition, submitted last week by France and Great Britain, guaranteeing Belgian territorial integrity for five years, on condition that Belgium observe strict neutrality during that period, according to the *Nation*.

Minister Delacroix, in his outline of the Government's programme, said he hoped the Government soon would be able to give Parliament the details of the Paris negotiations and the guarantees obtained for Belgium's future.

Belgium, the Premier continued, intended to cooperate with Great Britain and France for reasons of sentiment as well as of interest. Without losing sight of the guarantees expected from the League of Nations, he said, Belgium desired to conclude with Great Britain and France certain arrangements of a military order.

## Canada Gets Big Canteen Profit.

OTTAWA, Dec. 18.—Canada's share of the profits of the canteen system of the British expeditionary forces amounts to \$35,000,000. The money recently has been brought from England by Lieut. Col. Cherry of the pay and audit branch of the Department of Militia and Defense. As all the money received by the canteens came from the pockets of Canadian soldiers who saw overseas service, a movement has been started to turn the money back to the soldiers.

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## SAYS CUMMINS BILL PROTECTS MILLIONS

**Underwood Urges Section 6 as Vital to Vast Army of Workers.**

**SUPPORTED BY INVESTORS**

**Alabaman Quotes With Approval Statement of Insurance Chiefs.**

**Special Dispatch to THE SUN.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Senator Underwood (Ala.) placed in the Congressional Record today an advertisement carried in *The Sun* by the presidents of the largest mutual insurance and banking institutions of the country urging adoption of section 6 of the Cummins railroad bill as necessary to save the transportation system of the country from collapse and ruin.

The statement of the presidents of these institutions was designed to correct misunderstanding of section 6 and declared that the percentage rate return fixed is not upon stocks or bonds or even upon the value of the individual railroad property, but upon the actual value of the entire transportation machine in each rate group as fixed by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

It pointed out that earnings of one road were not given to another and that no road could attain the ratio of earnings fixed upon its own value without earning it on a competitive basis. Senator Underwood placed it in the Record as a part of the debate on the bill, because, he said, it was worthy of the consideration of every Senator.

## Protects Investors.

In placing the statement in the Record as showing the demand and necessity for the fixed percentage rate return, Senator Underwood said the institutions represented by the men signing the statement own over \$1,000,000,000 of railroad securities, upon the stability of which millions of citizens must depend. The conclusions voiced by them, he said, are those of thousands of other institutions and investors who, recognizing that means must be found to give collective expression to their necessities, organized the National Association of Owners of Railroad Securities. He said in effect that \$3,000,000 life insurance policies were protected by these investments.

The Senator pointed out that the signers of the statement were Darwin P. Kingsley, president of the New York Life Insurance Company; Haley Fiske, president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; John J. Pulley, president of the Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank, New York; W. D. Van Dyke, president of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company of Milwaukee; Louis F. Butler, president of the Travelers Insurance Company, Hartford; and George K. Johnson, president of the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia.

## Vital to Millions.

In addition to the millions of life insurance policies and the millions of depositors in savings banks and other institutions whose money is tied up in the railroad, the Senator said there were 15,000,000 industrial insurance policies carried by the Metropolitan company alone which protected laborers, domestic workers and others of the poorer class everywhere.

Summarizing the situation, he said the largest owners of railroad securities are the investing institutions whose assets are owned by the holders of insurance policies and savings bank books, the respective insurance companies and banks holding such securities among their other investments to secure the payment of policies and deposits. It was because of this situation and the enormous and false statements made by railroad officials and others that the presidents of the largest mutual financial institutions determined upon an effort to influence the public.

## ANTI-STRIKE CLAUSE HELD IN RAIL BILL

**Senate Rejects Amendments in Night Session.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The Senate held its fifth night session on the railroad bill to-night with grave doubt in the minds of the leaders that the measure could be passed in time to permit beginning of the holiday recess Saturday.

The labor clauses, including the anti-strike provision of the Cummins measure were under discussion during the day, culminating in the rejection by a vote of 23 to 48 of the proposal of Senator Stanley, Democrat, Kentucky, to eliminate the whole sections. Efforts toward a compromise failed.

On a tie vote of 21 to 21, the substitution of Senator McCormick, Republican, Illinois, for the anti-strike provision was rejected and Mr. McCormick gave notice that he would ask for another vote later.

## MINERS TO MEET JANUARY 5.

**Convention Expected to Ratify Calling Off of Strike.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—William Green, secretary of the United Mine Workers of America, announced to-night that the general convention of the organization would be held in Columbus, Ohio, in the week of January 5, when delegates will be informed formally of the details of the agreement which ended the recent coal strike.

The call for the convention actually has not been issued, Mr. Green said, but arrangements have been made for the meeting. It is expected that 2,100 delegates will attend.

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## WAR PATRIOTS GOT \$50 A DAY IN PAY

**Continued from First Page.**

of \$500,000 to the Springfield Consolidated Water Company of Philadelphia upon the recommendation of the chief engineer of the housing corporation, who had twice been a paid expert witness for the water company. This fact, the president of the housing corporation originally testified, was unknown to some and would have affected his judgment had he known it, but correspondence between the water committee and the president indicated that he did know. "A failure to cease building operations promptly on the signing of the armistice proved either a desire to complete their 'town beautiful' experiments or to be helpful at Government expense to the local communities involved. The Crane tract at Bridgeport was 1/2 of 1 per cent. completed on November 6, 1918, yet it was completed by the housing corporation at a cost of \$1,371,839.00. Ninety-two of these houses were still vacant in September. The Philadelphia project was only 8 per cent. completed on the signing of the armistice, but was finished at a cost of \$3,495,000. These two transactions cost the Government not less than \$1,450,000.

## Shortage of \$11,008 Is Found.

"A serious shortage has occurred already in the inventory of non-expendable property at the women's dormitories in Washington. Personal culpability cannot be fixed by the committee as no receipt was required of any individual for furniture and similar articles delivered to these buildings. The present shortage is apparently \$11,068.68. The futile inefficiency of the system which would permit of \$275,000 worth of furniture to be handled without any personal responsibility is too obvious to need further comment.

"Certain officials of the housing corporation have in the past made material misstatements in their official reports and in their testimony before the Congressional committees. The fiscal records of the housing corporation are in a serious state. Exact statements cannot be obtained. Many assets and liabilities have never been shown on the books.

Real estate men employed as 'negotiators' in the purchase of real estate and whose work has been described as 'patriotic' received compensation at the rate of \$50 a day and expenses. The committee recommended civil suits to recover for the Government the excess 'overhead' paid to architects, to recover from G. A. Fuller & Co. the \$18,028 which the company obtained for subcontracts on the Washington dormitories and the 'extras' not properly allowable under the contracts. It recommended that the amount of the loan to the Springfield Consolidated Water Company be reduced by the amount of sums applied to the payment of old accounts instead of to extension of their equipment as the loan's terms contemplated.

## Personal Liability Favored.

With reference to the shortage of non-expendable equipment in the women's dormitories the committee recommended: "For failure to account the individuals accountable should be held liable; by reason of failure to require proper receipts or accountability the directors of the housing corporation should be held personally liable to the Government for the very gross negligence in this respect."

The committee did not name the officials it held liable for the conditions it discovered but stated: "The officials of the housing corporation now in office are not responsible for the policy of the housing corporation heretofore criticized. Had they been less committed to the theory that their predecessors were infallible their present efforts would be to wind up the affairs of the corporation would be more appreciated. Those who created the policies of the housing corporation left its organization shortly after the armistice."

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FIFTH AVENUE

## HUGE MOTOR WASTE IN FRANCE IS CHARGE

**Acres of Tires Ruined in One Camp, Officer Tells House Committee.**

**SPARKPLUGS FORM WALK**

**Automobile Parts Used to Construct Path 9 Feet Deep, Says Witness.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Automobile tires worth more than \$25,000,000, thrown in a pile many feet deep and covering more than an acre of ground, were ruined through exposure to the weather at the Motor Transport Corps base at Verneuil, France, Capt. Robert Clendenen, an officer at the camp, told a House committee today in its investigation of War Department expenditures during the war.

No coverings of any kind were placed over the tires for more than ten months, Capt. Clendenen declared, although there were many canvas tarpaulins scattered around the camp or being used for less important purposes.

Approximately 3,500 motorcycles, after being placed in perfect repair for use by the A. E. F., were parked at the same camp and allowed to stand exposed to the weather for months until they became useless piles of junk other witnesses told the committee.

Automobiles, including passenger cars of various kinds, and hundreds of trucks, were thrown into piles along the railroad tracks until the "junk" piles covered acres, Earl Tromley of Detroit, formerly a sergeant in the Tank Corps, asserted. The former sergeant expressed the belief that no inspection was made of the cars before they were discarded and that many of them could have been placed in perfect repair for less than \$50.

Testifying as to the treatment of soldiers at Verneuil and the tank corps camp at Bourges, France, witnesses preferred charges of neglect and inefficiency against Col. Harry A. Hegeman, whom they styled "Kaiser Hegeman"; Lieut. Col. Viner, who commanded the camp at Bourges, and Capt. Benjamin H. Smith, an officer in the 302d Battalion Tank Corps at Bourges.

Conditions in Col. Hegeman's camp, especially after the armistice, were characterized by the witnesses as "terrible and intolerable." Capt. Clendenen said the barracks had no floors, seas of mud filled the space around the buildings and only candlelight was available to the men. No effort, he declared, was made to provide sidewalks except for a "million dollar" walk built of spark plugs, carburetors and other motor parts. The material in this walk, he testified, reached a depth of nine feet.

Capt. Smith, while in command of the hospital at Camp Toboyana, Pa., ordered three enlisted men taken to New York and carried aboard the English steamship *Oriana*, although all three, he said, were suffering from influenza and the hospital at Toboyana was under quarantine. All died before the voyage was over, Tromley said.

Figures compiled by the Railroad Administration show a coal production yesterday of 78 per cent. of normal, taking the week of October 29 as representing normal. The week of October 29, however, was one of record production for the year, being the last week of heavy production before the strike when all forces were cooperating for a big output. It is estimated, therefore, that the production was at least 85 per cent. of an average normal for one day. This was affected also by weather conditions.

Production reports were also in the hands of the Department of Justice. No details were made known with respect to them, but they indicate that practically all of the available miners who will return are back on the job. Some left the mines for other employment, and car supply and weather have a material effect on production.

The general conservative order of the Railroad Administration has not been normal. For all practical purposes, however, all restrictions except that against exportation of coal have been removed through orders of regional directors. All railroad passenger service has been restored.

The car situation at the various coal mines is reported as good. The Railroad Administration is giving a maximum car supply wherever possible, but owing to the wrench given for movement and the sending of cars clear across the continent there have been some temporary local shortages.

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## SO. AMERICAN CABLE WAR IS DECLARED

**British to Contest American Company's "Monopoly."**

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Confirmation of recent reports of a cable war for South American business was given in a statement by Sir John Pender, chairman of the board of directors of the Western Cable Company at the annual meeting of the corporation. Sir John said his company would extend its cables on the west coast of South America from Peru to Colon. This will close the last gap of a system of cables encircling South America, with which competition will be offered to the American-owned Central and South American Company.

Sir John also announced that a considerable sum would be expended in strengthening the existing communications of his company on the west coast. These lines extend from Valparaiso, Chile, to Lima, Peru. The company also operates a system between England and South America.

A recent despatch from Lima said the Peruvian Government had granted permission to the Western Union Cable Company to establish a relay station at Pimental, Peru, midway of the projected cable line from Chile to Panama, and that this was regarded as the beginning of a cable war between the Central and South American and a combination of the Western Union Cable Company with the British Western. Projected extensions of the Western Union and the British Western companies will give these systems lines completely encircling South America.

## BORDEN TO REMAIN CANADIAN PREMIER

**Will Take a Long Rest in the Hope of Regaining His Health.**

**By a Staff Correspondent of THE SUN.**

OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 18.—An immediate effect of the announcement to the Cabinet last week that Sir Robert Borden would retire from active political life on account of failing health has been that his followers have realized there is no man available who is able to command the united support of the party in Parliament or in the country. The sequence to that is an official announcement this evening that Sir Robert will retain his position as head of the Government while absenting himself from duty for a considerable period in order to recuperate.

"The period of his absence from duty necessarily will depend upon his progress toward recovery, and in the end the condition of his health will determine his resumption of official duties or his retirement therefrom," according to the statement given out.

Sir Robert desires that the decision reached and urged upon him by his colleagues shall be placed before his supporters in Parliament believing it is essential they should approve the arrangement. Just how that body will reach a decision has not yet been given.

An early decision will have to be made on when and how to call this caucus of the party. There is no talk of a national convention. It was the stated purpose of the Prime Minister after he had decided on a question of policy, in consultation with his supporters in Parliament, to formulate those policies from his place in Parliament as controlling the action of the Government during the period of its tenure of office. With the stated view of the Prime Minister before them the Unionist caucus will have to make decisions of importance.

## MONTENEGRIANS FIGHT SERBS.

**Accuse Latter of Using Women and Children as Shields.**

PARIS, Dec. 18.—Fierce fighting by the Montenegrin people against the Serbian occupation occurred around Cetinje between December 1 and December 12, it is declared in an official communication today from the Foreign Ministry of the Montenegrin Government, at present located in a suburb of Paris. The statement asserts that the Serbians placed women and children in front of them to prevent the Montenegrins defending themselves.

The Government of Montenegro, the announcement adds, has reiterated its protest to the Peace Conference against the Serbian occupation, asking that Montenegro be evacuated.

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